

Annex C

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Development of Procedures for U.S. Reports
for the U.N. Registration of Space Launchings

There follows a detailed chronology of the steps taken within the U.S. Government in the preparation and submission of registration reports to the United Nations.

29 December 1961 - The Department of State (S/AE) sent a letter to NASA and the Department of Defense setting forth the Department's views on what the registry should include and requesting comments on the Department's proposals. (Signed letter from Farley (S/AE) to Arnold Frutkin (NASA) and William P. Bundy (DOD/ISA), 29 December 1961, Confidential.)

12 January 1962 - DOD in reply to the Department's letter of 29 December agreed with the Department's view that the U.S. should take the lead in reporting space objects to the U.N. and suggested that only objects in "sustained orbit" be registered in order to protect U.S. freedom of action, if in the future it should prove necessary to launch satellites for only two or three orbits so as to minimize vulnerability to hostile counteraction. The DOD concurred in the Department's proposal for submitting regular reports, but suggested that the U.S. not agree to report each launching within a specific period of time and avoid a reporting procedure that would tend to bind the U.S. to a precise reporting schedule. On the question of registry format, the DOD suggested that no distinction be made in the registry between NASA and DOD projects and strongly recommended that only minimal reports be provided on each launch, i.e. (a) the international designation; (b) the booster; (c) the date and time of launch; (d) the orbital parameters in approximate figures. DOD did not concur in the Department's suggestion to provide information as to the vehicle's purpose. (Signed letter, Bundy (ISA) to Farley (S/AE), 12 January 1962, SECRET.)

NASA's comments on the Department's 29 December proposals were received orally.

22 January 1962 - The Department of State sent a memorandum to General Taylor at the White House describing the proposed U.S.

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format and procedure for registration and requested General Taylor to check it with the President to the extent General Taylor considered it desirable. Copies of this memorandum were also sent to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence. It was approved by General Taylor on 22 January. (Signed memorandum from U.A. Johnson to General Maxwell Taylor, 22 January 1962, SECRET.)

23 January 1962 - A memorandum was sent to NASA (Office of International Programs) and DOD (ISA) setting forth the proposed format and procedure for registration and noting that these proposals had been checked out with the White House. The memorandum also noted that it was not planned to include data on space craft making only a few passes but not remaining in orbit or on transmitting frequencies or the status of transmission. (Signed memorandum from Farley (S/AE) to Frutkin (NASA) and Bundy (ISA), 23 January 1962, Confidential.)

5 March 1962 - The U.S. submitted its first registration list of U.S. space launchings in response to the GA Resolution of 20 December 1961. The list included all objects in orbit as of 15 February. The information supplied by the U.S. consisted of (a) the international designation of the object; (b) the conventional designation of the launch vehicle (e.g. Atlas-Agena); (c) purpose of the satellite (e.g. development of space flight techniques, space research and exploration, development of practical applications of space-based technology, non-functional object); (d) the date of launch, and (e) the basic orbital parameters. (U.N. Doc. A/AC.105/INF.1). On 3 April and 7 May the U.S. submitted additional reports covering the period 15 February to 10 April. (U.N. Doc. A/AC.105/INF.3 and 5.)

6 March 1962 - DOD acknowledged receipt of the Department's memorandum of 23 January and confirmed DOD procedure for supplying data on successful DOD launches for inclusion in the registry. (Signed letter from Bundy (ISA) to Farley (S/AE), 6 March 1962.)

NASA acknowledged receipt of the Department's memorandum orally and confirmed its arrangement through submission to the Department of data for the initial report to the United Nations.

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26 April 1962 - The minutes of the Special Group meeting of 26 April 1962 noted under an item, Reporting of Outer Space Objects, that "It was agreed that Mr. Johnson would get together with Dr. Charyk and/or Mr. Gilpatric to try to reconcile the existing differences between State and Defense on this matter". (Memorandum for the Record -- Subject: Minutes of the Special Group Meeting of 26 April 1962, SECRET, EYES ONLY.)

8 May 1962 - The Department of State sent a memorandum to McGeorge Bundy at the White House reviewing the registration procedures followed by the U.S. and reactions to date thereto, and setting forth the results of a meeting on 3 May in which Messrs. Gilpatric, Johnson and Charyk agreed to certain modifications in our reports to the United Nations. Specifically, this memorandum advised of the addition to the registry procedure of provision for recording supplementary information on objects which orbit for periods of short duration and on objects launched during the period which failed to achieve orbit. In other respects the registry procedures remain unchanged, except that at NASA's request the DOD and NASA now separately provide the Department of State with information for inclusion in the periodic reports to the U.N. Previously, NASA consolidated NASA and DOD information for this purpose.

25 May 1962 - The U.S. submitted its registration report for the period 11 April to 30 April. This report included as supplemental information satellites launched within this period, but not in orbit at the close of the registration period (orbits of short duration). The data presented for these shots include the international designation, the launch vehicle, the satellite category and the date of launch. In addition, failures during the reporting period will also be included as supplemental information; the same data being supplied as for the short-orbit satellites, less the international designation. With this submission the U.S. has registered all objects in orbit as of 15 February 1962, all objects successfully launched since 15 February 1962, and all satellite launch failures since 10 April 1962. The Soviets, on 24 April and 11 May, completed their satellite registry through Cosmos 4.

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